

is respectfully requested to reconsider his restriction requirement in view of the amendments and remarks as set forth hereinbelow.

ELECTION OF CLAIMS

The Examiner has set forth a restriction requirement with regard to claims 1-86. The grouping of the claims is set forth as follows:

<u>GROUP</u>	<u>CLAIMS</u>	<u>CLASSIFICATION</u>
I	1-37 and 52-67	Class 704, Subclass 270
II	38-51 and 68-73	Class 704, Subclass 231
III	74-81	Class 704, Subclass 240
IV	82-86	Class 707, Subclass 3.

In order to be responsive to the Examiner's restriction requirement, applicants have elected claims 1-37 and 52-87 for initial examination. However, it is respectfully submitted that the restriction requirement is improper in view of the fact that no serious burden is presented to the Examiner to consider all of the claims in a single application.

In addition to the above reasons to consider all of the claims in a single application, as set forth in Section 803 of the MPEP, the Examiner must examine an application on the merits if the examination of the entire application can be made without serious burden. Two criteria are identified for proper requirement for restriction:

1. The inventions must be independent or distinct as claimed; and in addition;

2. There must be a serious burden on the Examiner if the restriction is not required.

Applicants respectfully submit that a serious burden has not been placed on the Examiner to consider all of the claims in a single application. A review of the subject matter set forth in claims 1-81 merely requires a review of class 704. Thus, a different field of search really does not exist with regard to the claims 1-81 of the present application.

In addition, the Examiner has not shown that there would be a serious burden by considering all of the claims.

In order to be responsive to the Examiner's restriction requirement, claims 1-37 and 52-67 have been initially elected. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider his restriction requirement and act on all of the claims in the present application. If the Examiner does persist in his restriction requirement, Applicants reserve the right to file one or more divisional applications directed to claims 38-51, 68-73, and 74-81 at a later date if they so desire.

Favorable action on the present application is earnestly solicited.

Serial No. 09/879,892

Response filed June 14, 2004

Reply to Restriction Requirement dated May 11, 2004

Docket No. 3655-0219P

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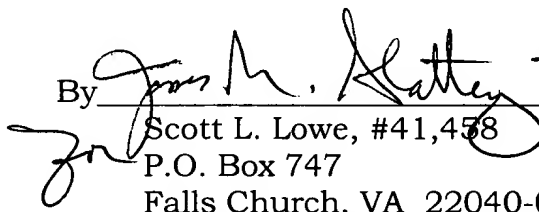
Please charge any fees or credit any overpayment pursuant to 37 CFR 1.16
or 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 02-2448.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

SLL/CTT/ags


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